Update to Tennessee State Technology Plan with respect to the TLCF Grant Program

For subgrant program year 2001-2002

Given that the goals set forth in the original TLCF grant application, implicitly updated and extended during the first four rounds of the grant funding, had been met and in some cases exceeded, the competition for the fifth and final year TLCF-authorized grants was restructured.

The state's purpose for restructuring was to develop "process knowledge" about effective ways to engage an <u>entire</u> school's faculty as a professional learning community pursuing both knowledge and effective practice for integrating technology into their teaching and into the ways their students learn. Prior TLCF competitive grants thoroughly explored one specific model of professional development. While the new initiative did not utilize the previous model, it did build on its essential premise: that teachers need professional development in order to learn how to use technology as an effective teaching and learning tool. The new initiative expanded the original competition by stipulating that all teachers in the schools must participate in the professional development program.

State Goals

1. Develop practical understanding of effective technology integration models for instruction. **Strategies**:
   - ✓ Integration workshops designed specifically for coaches with one additional teacher;
   - ✓ Fund software purchases selected for technology integration
   - ✓ Faculty juries examples of integration best practice for publication on the web
2. Create technology professional development model programs and schools. **Strategies**:
   - ✓ Publish weekly progress in a reflective journal to allow other schools to observe what works and what works best
   - ✓ Communicate regularly with technology coaches and review weekly journal postings
   - ✓ Utilize pilot schools as demonstration sites after the pilot year
   - ✓ Engage technology coaches as technology integration and professional development expert resources after the pilot year
3. Provide the funded schools with high-quality professional development for their entire faculty. **Strategies**:
   - ✓ Allow each faculty to design its own professional development program designed according to faculty needs and school culture
   - ✓ Fund faculty stipends for off-contract work hours; pay for substitute teachers
   - ✓ Fund attendance at state, regional, and/or national technology conferences
   - ✓ Fund full-time technology coach to direct the program, work individually with teachers, and facilitate in-house professional development
4. Focus technology classroom use on improving student learning. **Strategy**: Bonus awards
5. Make modern networked computers available in all classrooms so that teachers and students have the essential tools available for improving student learning. **Strategy**: fund purchases of networked computers and file servers.
6. Determine qualities that make programs effective. **Strategies**:
   - ✓ Contract for external evaluation
   - ✓ Correlate findings with individual school summative assessment
   - ✓ Compare with bonus criteria standings
   - ✓ Review journal entries and confer with coaches

Evaluation

1. Contract with external evaluation team to conduct on-site program evaluation with tested instruments and report on both local and state program
2. Mid-course formative assessment report submitted by each coach
3. End-of-course "summative" assessment report from each coach
4. Faculty evaluates and selects best practice examples using locally-defined criteria

Subgrantee School Goals

The goals for each pilot school will be articulated at each school, but three tenets inform them:
- ✓ All teachers will use technology as an instructional and learning tool
- ✓ All teachers will improve their level of technology literacy and integration
- ✓ The use of technology will relate directly to student academic achievement

Competition/Grant/Program Methodology

- ✓ Fund a small number of pilot demonstration schools to undertake a year long intensive all-faculty professional development program in the integration of technology into everyday teaching and learning.
- ✓ To implement the professional development program, require that 50% of funding be used for professional development.
- ✓ Each school engages a qualified teacher to serve full-time as a technology coach and director of the school's professional development program.
- ✓ Use the balance of the budget for hardware, software, and those supplies and materials essential for the implementation of the professional development program.
- ✓ Each pilot school designs its unique program using in-school time, after school time, and weekends as appropriate for the school culture. Outside resources may include technology conferences, technology integration experts used as on-site workshop facilitators, and on-line courses.

Year 5 Goals as Cited in Year 4 Report

In the Year 4 performance report for TLCF, the 4 goals (pillars) originally set forth in Tennessee's grant application were restated for 9/30/2002 in terms of the pilot school program. These goals continue to be aligned with the State Board of Education Master Plan.

1. NATIONAL GOAL: All teachers and students will have modern computers in the classroom
   - ✓ NEW STATE GOAL: Modern computers will be available to every classroom (in the pilot demonstration schools) at a rate equal to or greater than the 5:1 ratio
2. NATIONAL GOAL: Every classroom will be connected to the information superhighway
   - ✓ NEW STATE GOAL: On-demand internet access will actually be available to every classroom in the schools impacted by the TLCF (2001) grant.
3. NATIONAL GOAL: Effective and engaging software and on-line resources will be an integral part of every school curriculum.
   - ✓ NEW STATE GOAL: Pilot schools will investigate, use, and evaluate a variety of software, productivity tools, and on-line resources to fit student achievement needs. Examples of best practice and journal accounts of pilot school programs will be published electronically for modeling purposes. A financial bonus will be made to pilot schools demonstrating student achievement per bonus criteria.
4. NATIONAL GOAL: All teachers will have the training and support they need to help all students learn through computers and the information superhighway.
   - ✓ NEW STATE GOAL: Each teacher in each pilot school will participate in tailored on-going faculty professional development and be assured of advancing his integration of technology at least one level.

Approval of modification of original competition

Since the TLCF2001 subgrant competition program is a marked change from the competitions held to date, the grant administrator held several telephone conferences with Mr. Charles Lovett, the federal manager of the TLCF program, to apprise him of the new competition design and the rationale for its use. Mr. Lovett advised that no formal update of the original application need be made. This advice was also influenced by the fact that new federal legislation for education would be forthcoming, that there would be education technology grant requirements included, and that a new application for federal technology funds would be required at that time. Therefore, it was agreed that additional paperwork would not be necessary. Mr. Lovett advised that the federal office of education did, in fact, want states to regularly refine the competitions to keep them aligned with what was deemed to be most effective in addressing the four national goals. Thus, Tennessee's change in program year five is in keeping with federal expectations.

Promulgation

The Announcement for the TLCF2001 grant program were published on the web beginning at http://www.state.tn.us/education/01tlcf.htm. The Request for Proposals were downloadable from http://www.state.tn.us/education/tlcf2001f.htm Specifically

- Request for Proposals: http://www.state.tn.us/education/01tlcfrfp.doc
- Form Packet: http://www.state.tn.us/education/ed3042.doc, and
- Auxiliary materials: http://www.state.tn.us/education/01tlcfauxiliary.doc

Implementation

- The TLCF2001 program's home page was posted at http://www.state.tn.us/education/01atlcf.htm.
- The index of schools awarded the grant (with links to their web-posted weekly journals and grant abstracts) was published at http://www.state.tn.us/education/tlcfpilotschools.htm
- Auxiliary material developed for the TLCF2001 program participants, under the auspices of the Appalachian Technology in Education Consortium (ATEC) have been published at http://www.people.memphis.edu/~atec_pd/handouts/

Evaluation

External evaluation of the project was contracted through the Center for Research in Education Policy at the University of Memphis. The final project report will be published on the web from the TLCF home page.

The TLCF 2001 program was designed and is administered by
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